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# Greenhouse Gossip

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FIGHT FLORAL CO., Inc.  
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"Mum's the Word" . . and right he is.

From now and until late fall mums are the concern of many growers. We say concern advisedly because this crop is subject to so many ailments and failure to discern them spells either total loss or else poor quality. From the very planting we have to watch that *spot* does not attack the foliage. Fortunately it is easily controlled by several fungicides, but Fungisul seems as good as any, provided that regularity of spraying is practiced. Serious as spot may become if not controlled, a much more serious disease is *Verticillium wilt* which is recognized by the wilting and dying of entire plants. Despite sterilized soil this is hard to control except by using plants

which are free from it. There is a definite effort to provide such plants. When you see lower leaves graying and browning on the edges and excessive wilting of the whole plant, it usually means trouble.

These two diseases are bad enough without having to combat various pests and one of these is not readily recognized. We are thinking of the *foliar nematode*—a microscopic worm which works under the epidermis of the leaf, causes triangular brown areas extending from the veins, which later cause foliage drop. These nematodes spread by water so that keeping foliage dry will help as will spraying with double strength nicotine (1-200).

Then of course there is the ever present *leaf roller*, which becomes serious by neglect. Dusting with rotenone or pyrethrum dusts or spraying with materials containing one or both of these ingredients, the use of tartar emetic or arsenate of lead are effective remedies provided the foliage is coated before the larvae begin to roll the leaves. Once they reach that stage they are hard to get. The various electric killers and traps are a snare and a delusion since many of the female moths lay the eggs before flying. As a consequence the apparent slaughter results in the killing of the harmless males and a few females. Start protection early and keep at it and you'll not have so many sleepless nights.

In addition, of course, the voracious *thrips* are with us, scraping the surface and speckling the leaves, which eventually die off. As to remedy—tartar emetic, if you can't get that—try Salp, an excellent substitute. One would think that this would be enough, but we still have others which are serious. The *red spider*, for example, or the *mealy bug*, or the ever-present *aphids*, or the *bud worms*, and lastly but certainly not the least is the *midge*. All these can be controlled by spraying or dusting or fumigating and we feel sure you are familiar with the means. If not, here goes briefly:

*Red Spider*—Syringe or use any good rotenone and oil spray, applied regularly.

(Continued on next page)



*Mealy Bug*—Syringe or use Lethane, particularly since other "remedies" are hard to get! Cyanide may do a fair job and so will Volk (1-50) and Nicofume (1-400) combined.

*Aphids*—Tobacco pressure fumigation if spotty or else spraying with nicotine.

*Bud Worms*—Arsenical sprays.

*Midge*—Loro and Lethane do pretty well but watch out for hardening, especially on pink varieties. Pressure fumigators help if done regularly, although marginal burning of leaves may result.

Finally, watch your soil. If plants get yellow and stunted, drainage is poor or your nitrogen is too high or both. If you get marginal browning of the leaves or light spots in between veins, better use some potash. Deficiency of it frequently causes the trouble—the lower leaves show it first. Usually 1 pound of muriate of potash to 100 square feet will reduce the trouble, provided it is caught in time. We'll discuss Mums again later on.

### *Mother's Day in Mexico*

Mexico celebrated Mother's Day very fittingly. Flowers were sent to mothers in great numbers, but a further emphasis on the importance of the holiday was its recognition by the Federal Government.

On this day about 10,000 sewing machines were returned to the mothers who owned them a short while ago and for needy reasons had to make a loan on these machines by pawning them in the pawnshops operated by the national government. It was only necessary for a mother to go to the national pawnshop and show proof that she is a mother and her sewing machine was given back to her without payment of the loan and the interest that accumulated was waived.

Surely this is a wonderful tribute paid to mothers by the Mexican government.

### *Calceolarias*

These are beautiful showy plants and our hybrids please our customers each year.

With the seed difficult to obtain from abroad, some varieties may be missing this coming season. It will be advisable for you to let us have your order early this year as there will not be as many to supply of these strains, same as we have shipped the past few years.

### *Statistics*

Chicago bus seats are two inches wider than those in New York because the average Westerner is broader of beam.

### *Clean Sprayers*

Too many sprayers are found in greenhouses which have a scum of varying thickness on the inside caused by deposits of old spray material. This scum eventually will decrease the effectiveness of the material that is being used for pest control.

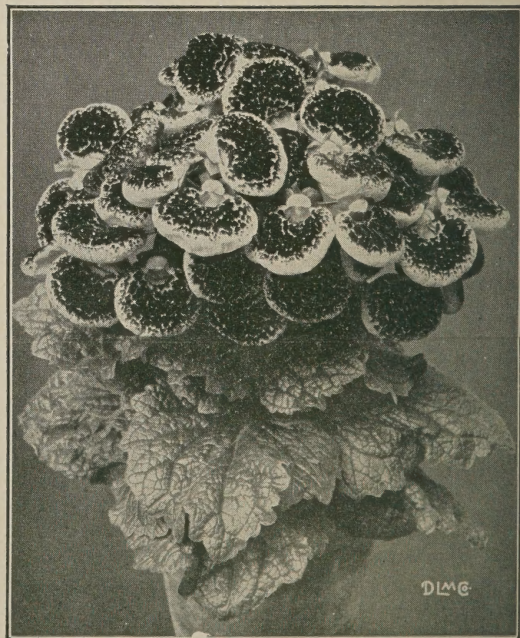
To clean sprayers use 1 pound of tri-sodium phosphate to each 30 gallons of water and allow this solution to be pumped through the hose as well as the sprayer. It may be necessary to clean off the heavy material first with either live steam or a paint scraper. The tri-sodium phosphate can be obtained at any drug store for about 5c. per pound. *Remember—equipment must last.*

THE IMPENDING GAS rationing will try men's soles.

### *Have You Heard of Fungisol?*

This sulphur paste has been on the market for a couple of years but has not been used as generally as it should be. For mildew and spot on roses, for rust on snapdragons and carnations, for numerous other superficial diseases, it does the work well.

Use it at the rate of 1 pound to 100 gallons of water plus about ½ pound of Casco glue (any hardware store handles that).



*Calceolarias*



## Pansy Seed

The new seed of the genuine Roggli Swiss Pansy has just come over recently from Switzerland. This is an exceptionally fine strain of Pansies and very well known to many growers.

Have you ordered what you need? Now is the time to sow them.

## Dish Gardens

Since Pearl Harbor the "Jap" gardens went out of style, but under any other name they have become the rage.

There has been an unprecedented demand for dish gardens composed of various succulents, foliage plants and cacti. Several factors are responsible for the demand. One of these undoubtedly is the change in clientele—the buyers who formerly were unable to indulge in expensive plants and who now appease their desires by buying the unusual and yet lasting combinations.

Another factor influencing the buying is that in apartments and small homes dish gardens present fewer problems of upkeep and stand much abuse. Whatever the causes are, the fact remains that the demand is there and should be taken advantage of. It should be remembered that individuality in arrangement of the plants in these gardens is important. Likewise that attractiveness is enhanced by the use of proper containers and special features, such as figures and landscapes. In particular, attention should be paid to the assortments of plants so that water and temperature requirements of all the plants used in one arrangement be approximately the same. Thus, cacti which need little water should not be mixed with philodendrons, table ferns and other plants which require much more.

For cheaper gardens, second-hand pottery answers the purpose well. The following plants are largely in demand:

Aloe variegata	Chinese evergreen	
Cereus serpentinus	Christmas Cactus	
Cereus triangularis	Crassula arborescens	
Echeveria	Peperomia	Small palms
Gasteria	Philodendron	Dracaenas
Haworthia	Pothos	Cissus
Nephtytis	Sansevieria	Ivies
Opuntia	Sempervivum	

To these may be added small Saintpaulias and late cuttings of Kalanchoe Tom Thumb, which are attractive with one flower cluster.

*AN OLD TIMER* is one who remembers when lumps of sugar were fed to horses.



Terrarium

## Fertilizers

We hope that you have stocked up with these. If you have not, it's going to be just too bad. Some things like nitrate of soda and ammonium sulphate are out unless you have a friend somewhere who's willing to part with them. Mixed goods are on the way out. Blood, tankage, cottonseed meal are getting scarce. So you may have to go back to the bonemeal and manure, which are all right, if you can still get those.

## Kalanchoe

Keep your plants on the dry side and you'll avoid grief from rotting. If you want some as early as November start shading now (August 1), just like mums, from 5 p.m. until until 8 a.m. daily and keep it up until October 1. If you want Christmas bloom, start shading September 1 and until the middle of October. Grow in 60°.

Best plants are three to a six-inch pan. Tom Thumb is especially satisfactory. The tall, orange colored hybrids are mostly good for cut—they are too lanky for satisfactory pot plants. Watch out for mites and mealy bugs.

The boy stood on the burning deck  
A lively place to be  
Shooting Japs out of the sky  
Into the foaming sea.



## Carnations

Anybody can grow carnations but few really grow good ones. Why? Well, in the first place you have to start with bushy plants (8-12 breaks), free of spots and stem rot, which can be done easily. Just keep your plants sprayed regularly with lime-sulphur, Fungisul, or Bordeaux. That won't stop stem rot, but sterilized soil, high planting, no injury to stems and reduction of water will help.

Assuming now that you have started with clean bushy plants, the next point to consider is the watering. Don't water too much, give the plants a chance to get established before any heavy watering is done, and then keep on the dry side in between waterings. You will avoid trouble and lengthen your stems. When you think you ought to water, just wait a day or two, this especially important during late fall and winter.

Your soil—be sure you have enough lime and potash, with low nitrogen and low phosphorus. If properly prepared with manure, bonemeal or superphosphate and potash and lime you won't have to do much of any feeding during fall except perhaps a dose or two of tankage or ammonium sulphate. Then lay off during late fall and winter. In the spring a mulch of horse manure and some ammonium sulphate will help.

We hope you did not pinch after the middle of July if you expect a Christmas crop. Incidentally, some growers have done an excellent job by growing carnations in gravel culture and by subirrigation with water. Some day you ought to try one of these methods—they are labor savers.

Watch out for spider during the summer. DN dust or Fulex do an excellent job, especially the latter. In some varieties the Fulex actually stimulates growth, but be sure to follow directions. The old remedies of using lime-sulphur, salt water, etc. are only partially successful and any sprays which contain oil will stunt growth, although Loro has worked well in some sections.

## Bouvardia

With Lily of the Valley Pips not obtainable at least for the duration of the war, one of the items as a good substitute is BOUVARDIA. It is useful for many purposes.

Now is the time to plant for next season's supply. We have nice  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inch and 3 inch Pots ready for benching in the best kinds of white. We also have good pink colors.

Our bulb list is now pretty complete with prices. Have you a copy?

## Plant Names

We do not propose in this brief discussion to go into extremes about plant names but if we understand something about them, perhaps they will not seem weird, nor will they appall the beginner. Once we know what a name means and why it is given, it is easier to remember and associate it with the plant. However, it is absolutely silly, after learning a few botanical names to show our superiority to the extent of calling an oak a *Quercus*, or a daisy *Bellis perennis* while in the course of ordinary conversation with our friends or customers.

An old poet satirizes this habit thus:

"High-sounding words our worthy gardener gets,

And at his club to wondering swains repeats;

He there of *Rhus* and *Rhododendron* speaks,

And *Allium* calls his onions and his leeks;

Here *Arum*, there *Leontodons* we view,

And *Artemesia* grows where *Wormwood* grew."

The prejudice against botanical names is uncalled for. They are needed to avoid the lack of uniformity in common names so prevalent in various localities. A most common example is Bachelor's Button which may fit either *Centaurea cyanus* or *Gomphrena globosa*. Incidentally the *Centaurea* is often called the Cornflower and *Gomphrena* a strawflower, which name also fits *Helichrysum*. So it goes!

Many botanical names are merely descriptions of the plant in Latin or Greek, while common names may be Anglicized forms given to plants by people in their place of origin. Thus *peach*, *pear*, *plum*, etc. coming from the Mediterranean region, are forms of Latin, while many forest trees—*oak*, *ash*, *beech*, etc. originated in Central Europe.

From names of species valuable cultural hints are available. When the specific name is *himalaicus*, *alpinus*, *montanus*, you know it came from high elevation. If it is described as *sibericus*, *arcticus*, it will stand severe cold. *Chilensis* or *mexicanus* is indicative of warm climates, while *aquaticus* is a sure sign it grows near or in swamps.

We merely mention all this to make the grower feel that he is not going high-hat when he uses botanical names—many of them really mean something.

*Thumb Sucking.* Do you have a child who sucks his thumb? Who doesn't? It's really a bad habit—Might cause "buck teeth" and in later life make it difficult to suck on a pipe. Hence, make a strong tea of *Quassia Chips* and apply to thumb.







## Cineraria

While Cinerarias are not sold in quantities like they were many years ago, they seem to be again called for. With the new Cremer's Hybrids which are so beautiful and smart looking, we can understand why the public is taking to Cineraria again.

2 1/4 in. pots—ready September.

	100	1000
Cremer's Prize Strain.....	\$7.00	\$65.00
Half Dwarf Hybrids.....	7.00	65.00

### SEED OF CREMER'S PRIZE STRAIN

Mr. F. E. Cremer, originator's seed.

Packet \$1.50, 1/32 oz. \$4.00

## Other Fall Bulbs

Freesias	Anemones
Callas	Ranunculus
Narcissus	Grape Hyacinths
Iris	(Muscari)
Ornithogalum	Tulips

Ask for price list on all of the above items.

# Lily Bulbs

Between now and the next few weeks, we should know something about LILY BULBS that we will have to offer for this Fall delivery.

This all-important item for the grower is now being grown in the United States in many sections. We invite your inquiries and we will be pleased to quote prices as early as they are established.

Many of the Bulb growers have established prices several months ago but we have hesitated to go along and pay those high prices. We have been endeavoring to get somewhat lower prices so that we can sell to our customers at a fair price so as to allow our grower customers to sell and make a fair profit.

*We invite your correspondence.*



Cineraria



# New Begonia

## Special Offer

### FREW & JACKSON'S PRIDE.

A new vivid red. A sport of the old Glorie de Chatelaine. A very free branching and strong grower. A free bloomer.

2 in. pots ready for 3 in.—special price for immediate shipment.

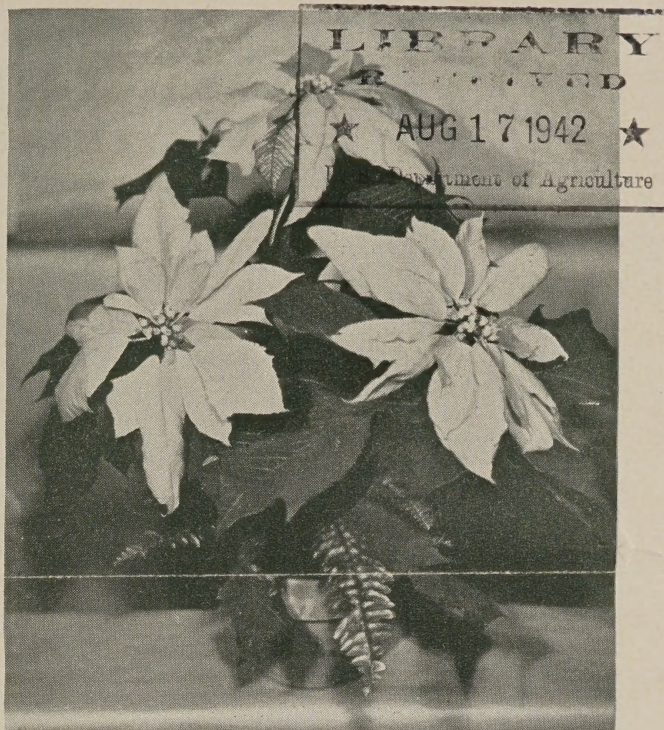
\$12.00 per 100

This is a special offer because of the 12c. price for orders received now while our grower has this lot which is ready to be shifted into 3 in. pots. Prices after that will be at the Fall price of the introducer—15c. or 16c.

## POINSETTIAS

2¼ in. Pots

	100	1000
Oak Leaf.....	\$10.00	\$85.00
Mrs. Paul Ecke....	12.00	100.00
Ruth Ecke.....	12.00	100.00
Pink.....	12.00	....
White.....	12.00	....
Xmas Star		
Patented.....	30.00	250.00
Xmas Red Ecke...	20.00	....



Poinsettia Xmas Red Ecke

## KALANCHOE

Globulifera Coccinea. 2¼ in. pots, \$7.50 per 100, \$65.00 per 1000.

Tom Thumb. 2¼ in. pots, \$12.00 per 100.

## HYDRANGEAS

We have a nice lot of Field Grown and Pot Grown Plants.

**Other Seasonable  
Fall Stock to  
Order Now**

### PELARGONIUMS

Rooted Cuttings and 2¼ in. pots.

### FORGET-ME-NOTS

2¼ in. pots (a nice improved Winter-flowering strain).

### DAISIES, Yellow

The Improved Boston Yellow Daisy.

### HARDY GYPSOPHILA PERENNIALS



Comparison of Tom Thumb with regular Kalanchoe

